

central mission of Children's Friend's is "to promote the emotional, social and physical health of a needy and diverse population of children and to advocate of their rights."

The Children's Friend Inc. Ambassadors Award was established to honor a diplomatic official of the highest rank appointed and accredited to represent an organization's permanent mission to the community. Rev. Kennedy first became involved with the Children's Friend Inc. in 1993 and served on the organization's Board of Directors from 1994 to 2002. He was presented with this award because of his tireless and continued effort to advocate for the well being and welfare of children. This is a testimony to the power that one individual can utilize to benefit the lives of many.

In addition to this achievement, Rev. Kennedy has served the Massachusetts Lutheran and Episcopalian community in a distinguished manner for well over 20 years. After graduating from Harvard Divinity school and the Hama School of Theology at Wittenberg College, Rev. Kennedy began his career as a pastor at the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Since then, he has actively and impressively represented his own congregations and the greater church community through the numerous positions. Some of his many outstanding contributions include serving as delegate to the Lutheran Church in America Convention four times and holding a variety of positions for the Lutheran Service Association, and the Lutheran Social Service of New England.

Rev. Kennedy's commitment to social service and human welfare is extensive. He sat on the American Red Cross Board of Directors, and served as President of the Worcester Chapter of the American Cancer Society. He was a member of the Board of Trustees at Upsala College and currently sits on the Board of Trustees at Endicott College.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the entire U.S. House of Representatives joins me in congratulating Rev. Kennedy for this high honor.

#### 100 YEARS OF UNITED STATES-BULGARIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

##### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday while Washington was consumed with the arrival of hurricane Isabel, a significant celebration was taking place in Sofia, Bulgaria.

On September 18, the United States and Bulgaria marked the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, Bulgaria has worked hard to build a stable democracy and to provide its people the very freedoms we have for so long taken for granted in this country. The people of Bulgaria should be proud of what they have accomplished over this past 13 years.

Bulgaria has also worked to reaffirm and strengthen its friendship with the United States. Bulgaria has worked with us to promote stability and peace in the Balkans by providing peacekeeping forces in Bosnia and Kosovo.

After the tragedy of September 11, 2001, Bulgaria was among the very first countries to denounce terrorism and pledge active support to the United States in the fight against global terrorism. Bulgaria supported Operation Enduring Freedom and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan and is presently providing 500 infantry soldiers to the Iraq stabilization force.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, on the occasion of this 100th anniversary of United States-Bulgarian diplomatic relations, it is appropriate to reflect on this important relationship and to dedicate ourselves to promoting good relations for the next 100 years.

#### HONORING ST. JOSEPH PARISH ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rev. Michael Couhig, CSC, and the congregation of Holy Cross on the 150th anniversary of the founding of St. Joseph Parish by the congregation.

St. Joseph is South Bend, Indiana's oldest Catholic worshipping community. Initially called St. Alexis Chapel, it was established by Rev. Edward F. Sorin, CSC, as a mission chapel of Notre Dame.

Since that time, the congregation has treasured history.

The first building, which was both a chapel and a school, was erected in 1853 in the community of Lowell, at what is now the intersection of Hill and LaSalle streets.

By the next year, the Sisters of the Holy Cross were teaching children in the tiny building. In 1866, that first structure was replaced with a larger building named the Church of the Assumption.

The second church building burned to the ground in 1872. A third church was built nearby on the present site of St. Joseph Medical Center. By 1881, when the cornerstone for the fourth church was laid on the current site, the parish was known as Saint Joseph, and Lowell had been absorbed by the city of South Bend. The parish thrived, welcoming French, English, Irish, Italians, Southeast Asians, and all others as they came. Because of structural weaknesses, the handsome old Gothic church had to be demolished, and the current church was erected in 1965. St. Joe's current parish registration numbers over 720 families.

As the parish grew, so did their school. The school expanded into Assumption Academy, a boarding and day school, which in 1886 was replaced by a larger two-story building. By 1926, that structure was overflowing, and the present school was built. Since that time, the school's high standards have remained unchanged. St. Joseph School is the oldest continuously operating school in the city of South Bend, Indiana, and their building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Rev. Couhig and his parishioners for contributing to the spiritual, educational, and economic development of the Michiana community for the past 150 years.

#### TRIBUTE TO RALPH SAMPLE

##### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Ralph Sample who recently passed away at the age of 85. A lifelong resident of New Castle, Colorado, Ralph was an enterprising and hard working man who was extensively involved in his community. I am honored to pay tribute to his memory here today.

Ralph was born in Glenwood Springs in 1917. Later in life, Ralph settled with his wife Edna in his native Glenwood Springs, where they farmed, raised cattle and sheep, and Ralph operated Sample's Jersey Dairy. In addition to farming and ranching, Ralph was an entrepreneur. He helped to establish both the Glenwood Insurance Agency & Realty and Valley Realty.

Many community groups benefited from Ralph's participation. He was extensively involved with the Glenwood Springs Masonic Lodge as a member of both the York Rite and the Scottish Rite. Ralph was also an active community leader with the Glenwood Springs Rotary Club and the Elk Creek Grange No. 415. He devoted countless hours to their many philanthropic pursuits.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in extending my deepest sympathies to the family of Ralph Sample. His hard work and civic-mindedness stand as a shining example of the spirit of Colorado. While Ralph has passed on, his legacy will live on with all those who knew him. I am honored to recognize his life and passing here today.

#### HONORING MAESTRO ENRIQUE DIEMECKE

##### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Maestro Enrique Diemecke as he begins his fifteenth year as the Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Flint Symphony Orchestra. Maestro Diemecke will be honored for his service at a dinner on October 4th.

Enrique Diemecke became an integral part of the Flint musical community in 1988. An internationally recognized musician and maestro, he is considered to be one of the best young maestros working in the world today. His list of accomplishments is extensive. After studying at Catholic University in Washington, DC, and the Pierre Montoux School for Advanced Conductors he embarked upon a musical career that spans several continents. He has served to the delight of audiences as the conductor for orchestras in North America, Europe, New Zealand and South America. His sublime interpretation of both classical composers and emerging talents have won rave reviews everywhere he performs.

His musical endeavors have not been limited to live performance. Maestro Diemecke has recorded several pieces of music. He won